

The West Virginian
"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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perfect instrument and America must find a way to improve it. And one of the means to that end must be reduction in what Dean Swift called the whole race of politicians. The chief defect about soviet government, which is a nostrum that holds the attention of the feather headed at present, is that it multiplies instead of decreases the number of politicians. It used to be conceded that Russian bureaucracy lead the world in the matter of providing tax eaters, but the soviet system would make the old style in Russia look like moderation in that particular.

LET'S GET A BUFFALO.

UNCLE SAM is always giving away something to deserving municipalities, and sometimes to municipalities that are not so deserving. For many years following the Civil War these gifts usually took the form of enough old solid shot to form a nice pyramid which helped to give an "air" to the soldiers' monuments which sprang up all over the land to the honor of the men who saved the union, and, incidentally, to be sure, to the inordinate profit of monument contractors who started life as tombstone designers. Then, after the Spanish war, hunks of poor old Admiral Cervera's fleet were passed around with now and then an old bronze Spanish field piece from the Philippines, or perhaps an obsolete but honest to goodness rifled cannon which had formed part of the equipment of the United States army.

By that time it became so much a matter of course for cities, towns and even villages to hold out their hands that when the most recent war was brought to what the orators about next Fourth will get around to calling a glorious finish, a wide awake representative and at least one senator in congress, without taking the trouble to ask if it were in the market, so to speak, introduced bills authorizing the War department to turn over to Fairmont some of the artillery Marshal Fach compelled the Germans to give up when he agreed to let them sneak back home in peace.

All of this is entirely regular, to be sure, and in its way useful. It stimulates the curiosity and the imagination of Young America and gives the Graybeards of each generation a chance to spout. It is merely mentioned here by way of introduction to the announcement that Uncle Sam has at last decided to give away something that municipalities which are made the recipients of his favor cannot dump down in the pipe yard nor hide in some cemetery. Uncle Sam this time wants to give away buffalo. Real, honest to goodness buffalo; the kind that used to roam the great plains by the hundred thousand when the white man first put his foot on this hemisphere and for many years afterward. The announcement of the Agricultural Department sets forth the fact that provision for these gifts is made in the current agricultural appropriation bill and only one may be given to each town.

How about going after one of these bison? You have heard of the man in DeWolf Hopper's famous song who acquired an elephant by gift. That elephant ate all night, that elephant ate all day, and yet "his cry was still more hay." The hay problem would not be difficult in the case of a bison, but the matter of sufficient range would. And that is why Fairmont ought to put in a bid for one of these always interesting and almost rare animals. One of the largest park systems in America and one of the most interesting in the world grew around an idea in the back of old Ben Franklin's head. A buffalo is much bigger than an idea. Maybe if we got one of those bison a park system for Fairmont would grow around it.

Rep. Huddleston, of Alabama, yesterday introduced a bill providing for price fixing on necessities, and while this particular act may have little chance it points the tendency of the times. The public has for years resisted the urge to put the government in the food price fixing business, but the resistance is growing weaker all the time, and the profiteering since war time control was taken off has well nigh broken it down altogether. Unless there is a great change in the situation price fixing measures will be passed during the life of the present congress.

Oscar Hammerstein who died yesterday in New York was a queer mixture of the practical and the eccentrically artistic. Early in life he patented a number of devices which are still in use in cigar factories and he never entirely abandoned the field of invention. But his real title to fame was his speculation in New York theatre construction and in the theatrical world. While he lived no branch of the theatrical or operatic profession in this country could afford to drop back into an attitude of complacency. If it did the irrepressible Oscar would come along with an innovation which would jolt things loose in a way which would catch much of the amusement loving public's money.

The packers through their chairman, Thomas E. Wilson, have telegraphed to President Wilson that they want to help him in the cost of living inquiry. One thing must be said about the packers: they are always on the firing line when trouble begins. That explains in a large measure why they have such a firm grip on everything in which they are interested.

Congress in response to a request made by Mr. Wilson has decided to abandon the proposed recess in order that it may take up the cost of living problem. In doing this a way was paved for the law making branch to prove that it is still the most important part of the national government. If it goes straight at this great problem and works earnestly, honestly and without paying the slightest attention to the bearing of the matter upon the elections of next year, a whole lot of good can be accomplished, both for the public and for congress.

The British government is beginning to hand out rewards for service rendered during the war and General Allenby, who commanded in Palestine and crushed Turkey, and General Plumer, who was at the head of the Second British army, have been made field marshals. On this side unless all signs are deceptive we are getting set to give every one who were at all prominent in our military effort a good panning. Wonder which system is the best in the long run?

TRUTHS AND TRAVESTIES

By Th' Bard.

Tenahum!

At last! For many years I have been but a poor common citizen. When men foregathered and mighty tales were told I was forced to listen in silence, for nothing ever happened to me. But now—all is different. When the talk works around to operation, as it almost invariably does, I can glow with modest pride, and with a slightly depreciatory cough remark "Ah yes. That reminds me of my operation." You see, last night, Doctor Leahy, of Mannington, excavated a carbuncle that has of late been a sort of hobby of mine.

"Be brave dear," said Mrs. Bard as I staggered from our humble domicile on my perilous errand. A few minutes later I was in the operating room. Whatever it is that perfume that lurks in operating rooms? I shall henceforth have nothing to do with it. No matter how fashionable it may become in our best circles I shall firmly oppose its use on my person.

"What a pleasant evening," remarked the doctor jovially. I caught a joyous gleam in the eye of the nurse. There seemed to be a festive air about the place.

The doctor's next remark was puzzling for a moment. "How fortunate you are not a woman," he said. Ah! I thought to myself, he is complimenting me on the masculine fortitude I am displaying in the face of this terrible ordeal. But he continued. "A woman with a scarred and deformed face is at such a disadvantage." My knees were trembling and I was forced to sit down.

And then my eye glanced across the room. What I at first had thought was a tasty sideboard set out with a dazzling array of silver plate resolved itself into a kind of chopping block graced with implements such as I had always visualized the Boche's using in their Belgian atrocities. From a distance I heard the doctor's voice asking the nurse if the food chopper or something had been properly sterilized.

A few minutes of preparation such as I imagine a Timbuctoo Islander goes through before splitting a Metho dist missionary for his midday meal, and the massacre was on. Stories of Knights of the Round table and their mighty strokes with huge two handed swords mingled with recollections that my insurance had practically lapsed. After a number of hours he smiled and stepped back. "All through," he remarked to the nurse and at first I supposed he meant he had succeeded in carving a hole all through my head. But no. He was finished. I glanced from the window to observe if dawn was breaking and was dumfounded to notice by a clock that he had been at work but a fraction over two minutes.

And then I felt a kind of blessed kind of peace stealing over me. The thumping jumping pain that had been battering my poor jaw for a week was now but a memory. I looked again at Doc Leahy and saw that he was actually a likable looking fellow. ...But the big thing is—nevermore, no a famous raven once remarked, nevermore will I have to be a wallflower through out a hair-raising personal experience to relate.

And now the postoffices are to be used as grocery stores. Is it too much to suppose that eventually they will depart as far from their original functions as a modern drug store?

Gas Alerts!

It may be that you have heard the Irish like a scrap. That kind of an Irishman, who went over with the 80th division had just stepped on to French soil, when a long noised civilian attached himself along side and asked, "Well, now that you are here, when do you think you will start fighting?" "Right now" said the Irishman as he dropped his pack and waded in.

All Clear!

What People Say and Some Side Remarks.

A stranger asked a crowd of men at the Peoples Bank corner where Stevens street was. This started a discussion about the ignorance to be found in Fairmont regarding the whereabouts of streets and led to the relating of an anecdote regarding the witty reply of Capt. K. D. Walker some years ago to a group of Morgantown men who attempted to kid him "Why do you call it Morgantown Avenue?" one of them asked Capt. Walker's reply shut them up. It was:

"Because it leads to a cemetery."

George F. Clelland, of River Run, who was a frequent contributor to The Fairmont Free Press some years ago, had and continues to have ideas of his own. He wrote for the newspaper under the pen name of "Right" which was intended to convey to the dullest minds the position that he occupied. It is told of him that he attended he exercises connected with the last day of school at Rock Union School House. Mort Lawlor was the first speaker. He proceeded along usual lines. He hoped that some of the boys before him would become a congressman and thus serve his country, or possibly governor of this grand and glorious state, or even president of the United States. Then Mr. Clelland took the floor and started off:

"I do hope that none of you boys turns out to be as ornery as the career mapped out for you."

GREAT SHOES FOR WORK.
Work in the field, in a mine or in a factory requires strong, sturdy shoes. Many men have found our Elk Skin Shoes in either light or heavy welt styles better suited to their needs than any other shoes—they stand the hardest use and are priced at \$3.00 to \$6.00 the pair. Smith's Shoe Store, 327 Main St.—Ad.

Odds and Ends
Summer
Neckwear
1-3 OFF

Courtneys' Store

Honest Values

108-110 Main St.

Lady Sealpax
Athletic
Underwear
1-3 OFF

Wool Skirts and Silk Skirts OF EXCELLENT QUALITY and MOST ENGAGING DESIGN



Now Offered
at a General
Reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$

A rather extensive gathering of Skirts in plain, plaid and striped Wool Materials and in both plain and patterned Silks is offered at this interesting discount from original prices. They are unquestionably serviceable and practical—they are temptingly designed on new and seasonable lines—they are of the usual Courtney good quality—and at reductions of one-quarter are worth-while bargains.

EVERY WOMAN'S WARDROBE CAN EASILY ACCOMMODATE ONE OR MORE NEW SKIRTS

Any of Our Wash Dresses 1-4 Less

—AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION THEY AFFORD A BUYING OPPORTUNITY OF RARE IMPORTANCE

THE STYLES—

Modeled late in the season and suitable for current wearing or for warm Autumn days; Correct in every detail; charmingly assorted which assures a becoming selection.

THE MATERIALS—

These Dresses are, of course, our regular stock items and accordingly the materials are of representative good quality. Voiles, Organdies, Linene, Chintz, Percales and Gingham a plenty for you.

Truthful Advertising Courtney's Store Dependable Merchandise

TODAY IN STATE HISTORY

By E. E. Meredith.

The land upon which Ravenswood is located originally belonged to George Washington. It was surveyed by him and his assistant, Colonel William Crawford on July 9, 1770 and patented the following year. There were 1,450 acres in the tract. It was inherited by six of his granddaughters and two of them came into possession of it but it was not settled until 1810 when Lawrence Lane and William Bailey settled upon the land and cleared about forty acres. Lucy Fitzhugh, one of the granddaughters, married Arthur M. Payne and named the place Ravensworth but the engravers of the first map of Virginia on which the town is shown got the name of Ravenswood and the mistake was never corrected.

Bury Earl McKnight at Jones Cemetery

The funeral of Earl McKnight whose death occurred at Fairmont hospital on Thursday as the result of injuries he sustained when he dived into the creek at Baxter, was held this afternoon at three o'clock from the home of his uncle, O. L. Hault, on Wood's run and interment was made in the Jones cemetery by Undertakers Carpenter and Ford. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. R. J. Yoak, of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church of this city. The United Mine Workers Union of which he was a member, attended the funeral in large numbers. He was also a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

YOUR NEXT

Storage Battery should be a Prest-O-Lite. There is a correct size for every make and model of car. As the official Prest-O-Lite Service Station in this territory we will be glad to extend you every courtesy. Please remember that the Prest-O-Lite is the oldest, service to automobile owners in America. South Side Service Station, 4th

WALKING THE PLANK.

This may be done safely enough if the plank comes from our large stock of lumber. And when you are ready to build you will find here all kinds of materials—Lumber, Roofing, Sash, Doors, Wall Board, etc., ready for quick delivery to you. John M. Kinsner & Bro. Lumber Co., Phone 127-R.

IT IS OUR BUSINESS

To dispense health-giving prescriptions in the proper way. Not a business we have learned in a day, but after years of hard work and careful study. We use pure drugs, compound them with accuracy and charge you

an honest price for our services. Bring your next one to the Mountain City Drug Co., opposite Court House. Phone 1216.—Adv.

"I ALWAYS HAVE GOOD LUCK"
Ask any housewife why she prefers Marigold Flour and she will say that she can depend on it. Being dependable, it not only eliminates chance of spoiled baking, but makes a quality loaf that the housewife is proud of. Get a sack from your grocer and have satisfactory bakings. Manufactured by Fairmont Grain and Milling Co.

TEN YEARS BEHIND
The times—Does that strike you? Do you illuminate your home with poisonous gas? Don't get scared when we suggest wiring your house for electricity—we can show you in five minutes that the electric way is the most economic—we do house wiring in a masterly manner at a modest cost. Let us talk it over. Fairmont Battery Exchange, 225 Meredith street. Phone 1191-J.

The Right Bank

One of the most important factors in your business career is having the right bank with which to deal.

The all important consideration with this bank is first to safeguard the money of its depositors and to render them such business service as will increase their prosperity.

Every courtesy possible is extended and we will be glad to enlist you with our many satisfied customers.

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL BANK.
Capital \$200,000.

Try and Get In Tonight!

We are having the biggest crowds and giving greater bargains than at any previous Clearance Sale.

You must hurry—shoes are selling rapidly—we have your size now. At a greatly reduced price

Men's Footwear Going at \$2.80, \$4.80, \$6.80

Women's Footwear Going at \$1.80, \$2.80, \$4.80 and \$6.80.

Children's Footwear Going at \$1, \$1.80, \$2.80

Shop Early—We Close at 9 o'clock Tonight

Shurtleff & Welton

RUFF STUFF

Those soft drink emporiums must have taken the kick out of their stock in trade.

Not many drunks being picked up by the police these days.

But tonight'll tell the tale.

If this is a light night for the cops it'll be possible to say that the old town has turned over a new leaf.

Socialists are going to build a platform tomorrow.

And they've called in everybody interested to help.

They'll have a sweet time of it if there is a big meeting.

That kind of platforms are usually

built by one or two fellows in a back room.

But maybe this one is to be different.

Don't forget that the stores close at nine tonight.

This is getting to be a city and you have to take on city ways if you do not want to get left.

Astonisher says Cora May has a criminal record.

Because she is alleged to have stabbed Lud Burreas.

If a jury ever gets a chance at that it might take a different view of it.

Astonisher might save itself a lot of trouble some time in the future if it took the trouble now to inform its young men what a criminal record consists of.

Under press of the agitation over

high prices the price of corn fell off seven cents a bushel in Chicago yesterday.

In due course of events that might make a difference of half a cent in the price of bacon in Fairmont about 18 months from now.

And then again it might not.

With the chances in favor of the might not.

They are against creating price reduction precedents here no matter what happens to prices in the primary markets.

There's always the high rents to blame, you see.

WILL BEAT SATAN TO IT.

Edith—Jack calls me his idol and says I shall never have to do anything but let me worship him.

Maud—Well, after you're married he'll find plenty for idol hands to do. —Boston Transcript.